For Immediate Release August 1, 2005 For Additional Information Steve Bumgarner 505.525.4305 Na'ama Tubman 505.525.4333

## BLM LIFTS FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR SIX COUNTIES: OTERO, SIERRA, DONA ANA, LUNA, HIDALGO, GRANT

Due to higher humidity in the area, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is lifting the fire restrictions they set in late June to help ensure safety, prevent wildfires and aid in fire-suppression. This fire order covers 5.4 million acres of public lands in Otero, Sierra, Dona Ana, Luna, Hidalgo and Grant counties.

The Fire Prevention Order, dropping previous restrictions, was signed today by District Manager Ed Roberson and allows the use of petroleum-fueled devices and open fires. Although the fire order has been rescinded, the use of, or possession of fireworks on public lands is, as always, prohibited.

"We are pleased that the fire restrictions helped prevent wildfires during the recent July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and the duration of the high fire-danger conditions that followed," said District Manager Ed Roberson. "It's appropriate that we now lift those restrictions."

BLM is operating in conjunction with other agencies around the state, including State Forestry and the Lincoln National Forest. For more information contact the BLM at 505-525-4300, or check out these websites:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa\_restrictions\_nm.htm -- NM http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa\_restrictions\_closures.htm -- NM & AZ

